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UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

Letter dated 11 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a summary of the statements made in informal consultations by Luxembourg, on behalf of the European Union, concerning the United Nations reform (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex issued as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 157.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Summary of the statements made in informal consultations by Luxembourg, on behalf of the European Union, concerning United Nations reform

Part concerning proposed actions

The European Union is pleased that the General Assembly has approved the measures contained in the Secretary-General's reform programme (A/51/950).

We believe that the message received and the choices made by the Secretary-General, the main focuses of work which he proposes and the impetus he is providing in this programme constitute a package which is both ambitious and realistic and which, when implemented, will help bring about a far-reaching change in the way the United Nations operates and in the way it is organized. The purpose of the proposed programme is to make our Organization a more efficient and effective instrument in the service of the international community.

The measures outlined in the document presented to us come under the authority of the Secretary-General under Article 97 of the Charter, which confers on the Secretary-General responsibility for organizing the Secretariat services. These measures - some of which have already been implemented - are designed to enhance the coherence and efficiency of our Organization's action. They have the approval of the European Union.

As the Secretary-General points out in his report, future success hinges on the United Nations ability to achieve a unity of purpose among its diverse departments, funds and programmes, enabling it to act coherently and deploy its resources strategically.

We also recognize that the package of proposed measures reflects a desire to balance the goal of improving the operation of the system with the need to take into account the various sensitivities which coexist within the General Assembly, and that these measures constitute a reasonable compromise in the best interest of our Organization.

While fully supporting the measures presented by the Secretary-General, the European Union wishes to submit its comments on a number of measures concerning sectors of United Nations activity that it considers to be particularly important.

Action 6. Disarmament and regulation of armaments (para. 125)

The European Union welcomes the increased importance given to the area of disarmament. It can support the creation of a Department for Disarmament and Arms Regulation as proposed in the original document (A/51/950). The Union would like the United Nations to continue playing its full role in assisting and supporting the efforts of Member States and would like the role of Geneva as the centre of negotiations and analysis to be confirmed.

Action 7. Reform of the Secretariat (para. 142)

The European Union welcomes the merging of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department for Development Support and Management Services into a new consolidated Department of Economic and Social Affairs and will support the translation thereof into budgetary terms.

It hopes that the creation within the new Department of a substantive Economic and Social Council secretariat will result in greater administrative support for the latter and, consequently, in an improvement in its performance. In this context we welcome the decision to create within the context of the secretariat an identifiable inter-agency affairs unit which will service the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

The European Union awaits with interest the outcome of the review of macroeconomic activities. The latter should lead to rationalization of the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs while ensuring respect for the relevant outcomes of the major international conferences.

Action 8. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism (para. 145)

The European Union welcomes the increased importance attached to combating crime, drugs and terrorism, as reflected in the creation of a centre to handle United Nations activities in these areas. This will produce considerable synergies between the crime prevention and drug control sectors.

The European Union believes, however, that the multidisciplinary nature of United Nations drug control policy must be preserved. It therefore welcomes the fact that the balance in the work of the United Nations Drug Control Programme between combating drug trafficking and other components of drug control, including activities aimed at prevention, rehabilitation and the reduction of supply through alternative development programmes, will be maintained.

Action 9. Development cooperation (para. 157)

The European Union fully supports the proposed reforms which represent an important step towards improved coordination of United Nations operational activities at Headquarters and in the field, and towards increased efficiency and productivity in the system.

The European Union is convinced that the United Nations Development Group can play a vital role in rationalizing and enhancing the impact of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system. Full involvement of the secretariats of the various funds and programmes in the operations of the Development Group is imperative in this context.

Action 13. Humanitarian affairs: role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the consolidated appeal process (para. 191)

The European Union generally agrees with the Secretary-General's proposals in this area. It will work to ensure that they are translated into budgetary terms and, more particularly, that they are financed entirely from the regular budget:

(a) The European Union believes that the new Coordinator should be designated as soon as possible so that he/she can have a say in the current restructuring process;

(b) The European Union supports a return to the core functions identified in General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991. The Coordinator will have to devote all his/her efforts to the three key goals identified by the Secretary-General, namely: policy development, advocacy of humanitarian issues with the main political organs and, lastly, coordination of humanitarian response;

(c) It seems essential that, henceforth, the Office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator should not undertake emergency field activities. The Union can therefore support the redistribution of some of the functions of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs within the system. It wishes to emphasize, however, that the humanitarian aspect of demining activities will have to be given due consideration when these activities are assigned to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The question as to which organ will be given responsibility for the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995) will also have to be clarified;

(d) The relationship between the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs will have to be clarified;

(e) The European Union can support further enhancement of the consolidated appeal process. It welcomes the fact that appeals for rehabilitation and reconstruction will be included in this process;

(f) The European Union believes that the Coordinator should continue to have some room for manoeuvre in this area. The designation of a lead agency is just one of several possible options for field coordination in complex emergencies.

The viability, indeed the success, of the new arrangement will depend largely on such factors as the profile and qualifications of the Emergency Relief Coordinator; the competence of his/her colleagues, in particular, the secondment of staff by the various humanitarian agencies; a logical distribution of tasks; clear lines of responsibility; and, lastly, a division of labour between Geneva and New York which takes proper account of the specific characteristics of each of these two headquarters cities - a division of labour to which the Union attaches importance.

Action 15. Coordination with other United Nations programmes (para. 201)

The European Union welcomes the fact that the programme recalls that human rights are inherent to democratization, the promotion of peace, economic security and social equity:

(a) The European Union understands that the assessment of the work of the Executive Committees, to be made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, should help to reinforce a horizontal approach to human rights. Ever since the post of High Commissioner was created, it has felt that the High Commissioner, who is "the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities", should be able to contribute constructively to all United Nations activities, inter alia, those relating to peace, security and peacekeeping, so that human rights are effectively mainstreamed;

(b) The European Union fully supports efforts to increase complementarity among the technical assistance activities carried out by different United Nations entities in the area of human rights. In this context, particular attention will also have to be paid to resource mobilization to ensure that the technical assistance provided by the Office of the High Commissioner plays an increasingly important role;

(c) The European Union welcomes the Secretary-General's decision to upgrade and strengthen the representation of the High Commissioner's office at Headquarters, which will help to ensure that the High Commissioner's mandate is implemented fully. In general, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and indeed the High Commissioner's Office, must be given the staff and budgetary resources needed to ensure the effective promotion and protection of human rights.

Action 17. Civil society (para. 216)

The European Union welcomes the increased importance attached to the involvement of civil society in the work of the United Nations:

(a) The European Union generally favours closer cooperation with non-governmental organizations and representatives of civil society;

(b) The European Union welcomes the decision to designate a non-governmental liaison officer within each department. It hopes that the necessary conditions will be created to enable the liaison officers to perform their role effectively.

The decision to establish a "business liaison service" seems an appropriate way of reflecting the increasingly important role of the private sector in United Nations activities.

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UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

Letter dated 11 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, I have the honour to enclose herewith the statements made on behalf of the Movement on 8, 17, 21 and 23 October 1997, during the informal consultations of the plenary of the General Assembly on agenda item 157.

(Signed) Julio LONDOÑO PAREDES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX I

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, during the informal consultations of the plenary on agenda item 157, entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals", 8 October 1997

We begin today the analysis of a subject of crucial importance to the Organization on which the attention of our Governments has been centred, as evidenced during the general debate. Our States recognize the extraordinary effort carried out by the Secretary-General in presenting his proposal, the importance of which was expressly underlined by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at their meeting on 25 September in New York.

It is evident that the reform process should preserve and promote the centrality and sanctity of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the mandates of the General Assembly and that it should also enable the Organization to fulfil its promise and meet the challenges of contemporary times.

For this reason, in the opinion of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the actions and recommendations presented by the Secretary-General should be analysed with a view to determining those which can be adopted directly by the Secretary-General, within the framework of the Charter and other pertinent provisions. Naturally, this is without prejudice to the right of all States to express their opinions and criteria with regard to them, with a view to their further elaboration and refinement.

Actions and recommendation that have political or budgetary implications should be debated sufficiently within a fully transparent process in which all delegations can participate, without establishing parallel groups or subgroups that would impede the participation of small delegations, thus undermining the general principle of wide and equitable representation of all States. The examination should be made with the celerity that each subject allows, but without setting a time-frame for deliberations, since a hasty decision-making could be detrimental to the final result of this important endeavour.

We are encouraged by the constructive spirit of the proposals formulated by the Secretary-General and are therefore prepared to participate with an open and constructive spirit in the deliberations.

ANNEX II

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, during the informal consultations of the plenary on agenda item 157, entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals", 17 October 1997

As I had the opportunity of expressing during my recent intervention on 15 October, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has been carrying out consultations on the issues of political nature contained in the proposal for reform of the Secretary-General with a view to presenting its position.

Although we had announced that we would be referring today to actions 3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 15 and 16, the Movement wishes to reiterate that there is a clear interlinkage between actions and recommendations contained in document A/51/950.

In regard to action 3, the Movement supports phasing out the use of gratis personnel in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In this regard, the Movement emphasizes that General Assembly resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997 should be fully implemented in all its aspects.

In regard to action 4, in principle, the Movement can support the idea of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General having authority over all United Nations entities in the field as this would enhance the coordination of United Nations activities.

In regard to action 5, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries takes note of the choice of the Department of Political Affairs as the focal point within the United Nations for post-conflict peace-building activities. The Movement emphasizes that the General Assembly should have the key role in defining and providing the general framework and guidelines to be observed by the Secretariat. Furthermore, both the Executive Committee on Peace and Security and the Department of Political Affairs, as focal point, should coordinate with the General Assembly.

The Movement reiterates that all post-conflict peace-building activities should be carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/120 B of 20 September 1993.

In regard to the task forces mentioned in paragraph 121 of the Secretary-General's report (A/51/950) the Movement considers that more information is required.

The proposal to restructure the functions of the Secretariat concerning disarmament affairs should be guided by the priorities established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions and fully take into account the following:

1. It is the conviction of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries that the existence of nuclear weapons poses the greatest danger to mankind and their

elimination continues to be a matter of the highest priority. Accordingly, the Movement upheld the continuing validity and importance of the principles and priorities established in the Declaration and the Programme of Action contained in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, in accordance with which the United Nations has the foremost responsibility to promote nuclear disarmament. Moreover, the International Court of Justice has stated that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. The Movement endorsed the statement stated in the note by the Secretary-General of 14 October 1997, entitled 'United Nations Reform: Measures and Proposals, Disarmament', that nuclear disarmament must be pursued more vigorously, particularly by the nuclear-weapon States, with a view to the progressive reduction and complete elimination of nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date (A/52/CRP.3, para. 2).

2. The Movement observed that in his note the Secretary-General expressed the view that weapons of mass destruction continued to be of primary importance despite significant progress achieved to outlaw chemical and biological weapons and to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regimes. In this connection, the Movement emphasized that the elimination and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements.

3. On conventional weapons, the Movement recalled that the General Assembly has adopted several resolutions, including the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session. Steps should be taken to deal effectively, through administrative and legislative means, with the increasing problem of illicit transfers of weapons, particularly small arms, which exacerbate tensions leading to strife, conflict and terrorism and have a negative impact upon the socio-economic development of affected countries. In this regard, it welcomes the adoption by the Disarmament Commission in 1996 of guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 September 1991. The role of the Secretariat with reference to the above-mentioned matters is expected to support the implementation of the decisions taken by Member States.

4. The Movement reaffirmed the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole negotiating body in disarmament. The Secretary-General in his note stated that providing staff support to, and servicing the Conference on Disarmament is one of the major functions of the existing Secretariat capacity in the field of disarmament in Geneva. The United Nations Secretariat dealing with disarmament in Geneva and New York should be strengthened in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution of posts by providing adequate staff to carry out its function.

5. On the implementation of treaties on disarmament, the Movement emphasized that questions regarding compliance and redress in case of allegations of violations of specific provisions of such treaties by parties to those treaties should be addressed through the relevant treaty mechanisms and in accordance with such provisions.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries supports the initiative of the Secretary-General to promote human rights. All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. While significance of national and regional characteristics and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The right to development has been recognized as an indivisible and integral part of human rights and should be implemented.

The Secretary-General has taken the further step of issuing a circular announcing the merger of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights. How does this conform with the resolutions of the General Assembly establishing the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights? The circular specifies functions of the High Commissioner which do not conform with General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993. The Movement, therefore, seeks further clarification on this.

On the responsibility of the Deputy to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as contained in section 4 of the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/1997 of 15 September 1997, the Movement would like to seek clarifications on the nature of specific substantive and administrative assignments to be decided by the High Commissioner.

In regard to action 14, the Movement considers that the appointment of officers/staff in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights must reflect the principle of equitable geographical representation as enshrined in Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations as well as gender balance.

Concerning the right to development, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should propose specific programmes and actions which promote the implementation of the right to development.

In regard to action 15, the Movement considers that the Secretary-General's proposal to integrate the human rights programme into the broad range of the Organization's activities requires careful consideration. The Movement seeks clarification about the involvement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the activities of the Executive Committees on Peace and Security, Economic and Social Affairs, Development Operations and Humanitarian Affairs. As the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is to assess the human rights dimension of the work carried out by these committees, consideration must be given to what follow-up actions are envisaged, whether the High Commissioner will determine these actions and what role is foreseen for the intergovernmental process.

In the Charter of the United Nations, human rights appears under Chapter IX, on international cooperation in the economic and social sphere. Provisions of the Charter should be strictly adhered to.

The Movement rejects the politicization of human rights. Any attempt to make human rights a conditionality in development cooperation is unacceptable.

The Movement believes that the proposed strengthening of the representation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York will entail additional financial resources, so does the involvement of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in all the activities of the Organization. In this regard the Movement is seeking clarification on financial implications and the impact on the programmes of work of both offices in Geneva and New York.

In regard to action 16, while the Movement recognizes that resolution 48/141 gave the mandate to the High Commissioner to rationalize, adapt, strengthen and streamline the human rights machinery, this should be within the framework of the overall competence, authority and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Commission. The proposal by the Secretary-General in this regard has sidestepped the intergovernmental process, especially the Working Group of the Third Committee.

The review of the human rights machinery must result in greater transparency in its work. At the same time, important appointments within that machinery must be made on the basis of equitable geographical representation and gender balance.

The monitoring committees and special procedures should be open to scrutiny as a matter of course and on a regular basis by the intergovernmental process.

The establishment of priorities within different programmes belongs to Member States. Any proposal in this regard must be subject to the consideration of the General Assembly.

Data banks should maintain information on both developed and developing countries and Member States must have access to these data banks. The accountability and impartiality of the source of information should be ensured.

ANNEX III

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, during the informal consultations of the plenary on agenda item 157, entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals", 21 October 1997

Taking into account the issues to be discussed today, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has prepared its position regarding the recommendation following paragraph 115 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/950). The Movement is today carrying out consultations on the remaining recommendations to be dealt with and hopes to be able to refer to them as soon as possible.

While stressing the need to prevent conflicts, it is the view of the Movement that the above-mentioned recommendation of the Secretary-General assumes that agreement exists among Member States on the concept of "preventive action" and the measures to be taken in that regard.

The concept of preventive action is new and unclear and Member States have not had the opportunity to discuss, debate and agree to it. It is also of concern that the term preventive action has appeared in a number of recent United Nations publications. Therefore, this concept should be discussed and debated by the General Assembly.

It should also be recalled that negotiations on preventive diplomacy were held over a period of three years and remain inconclusive and that the General Assembly has agreed to continue negotiations on preventive diplomacy in the future. Moveover, the Movement expresses concern on ideas contained in paragraphs 110 and 111, such as giving priority to those with relevant capabilities on providing information, which may violate basic principles of the Charter.

In regard to the second paragraph of the recommendation that the Security Council and the General Assembly consider measures to enhance the rapid reaction capacity of the United Nations, the Movement recognizes the need for the United Nations to deploy peacekeeping operations expeditiously and therefore has supported the establishment of the United Nations standby arrangements system. It recalls the view of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that the system constitutes a key to the increased effectiveness and rapid deployment capacity of peacekeeping operations (A/52/209, para. 79). The Movement believes that any effort to enhance United Nations peacekeeping capabilities should be based on further developing this useful and familiar system.

The Movement believes that any proposals and measures to enhance United Nations peacekeeping capacities should be presented for the consideration of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations which has the mandate to consider all aspects of peacekeeping.

In regard to the third paragraph of the recommendation, the Movement recognizes that there is a need to draw up, at an early date, a legal framework

for the relationship between United Nations peacekeeping troops and the host Government. Hence, the notion of setting a time-frame for reaching a status-of-forces agreement (SOFA) is a valid objective. By its very nature such an agreement is negotiated and arrived at between the host Government and the United Nations. The United Nations can facilitate this process by offering a SOFA as the basis for discussion and consideration. Such a process would be in keeping with the consensual nature of peacekeeping.

I also wish to make some general remarks on the issue of reimbursements to troop-contributing countries. The Movement is concerned that there is continued borrowing of money from peacekeeping funds for the regular budget of the United Nations resulting in a delay in payments to the troop-contributing countries, especially the developing countries. In this connection, we support the Secretary-General's views expressed in paragraph 114 of his report on the reform on the United Nations (A/51/950).

The Movement emphasizes the urgent need to find a solution to the delays in reimbursements to troop- and contingent-owned equipment provided by countries for peacekeeping operations, in particular the Non-Aligned and other developing countries. The continuation of this problem can adversely affect the participation of the countries of the Movement in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Finally, I would like to refer to the issue of demining. This year, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations agreed that "the task of operational mine clearance by peacekeeping operations, wherever appropriate, is the responsibility of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, particularly for the safety of peacekeeping personnel and the effectiveness of their tasks. It stresses that humanitarian mine clearance activities should be conducted under the responsibility of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (ibid., para. 65)".

In the light of the above statement, the Movement expresses concern over the transfer of functions of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs relating to demining activities to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

The Movement supports the request of the Group of 77 and China on the need for further clarification from the Secretary-General as to how the functions of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs would be distributed within the United Nations system, to ensure continued efficient delivery of particularly humanitarian assistance to developing countries.

The Movement stresses the need for the humanitarian mine clearance policies, practices and activities established by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to remain unaffected.

ANNEX IV

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, during the informal consultations of the plenary on agenda item 157, entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals", 23 October 1997

I only have a very brief statement to make today regarding the position of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on the recommendation following paragraph 126 of the Secretary-General's report (A/51/950).

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries endorses the recommendation by the Secretary-General that the General Assembly undertake a review of the work of the Disarmament Commission and the First Committee with a view to strengthening the effectiveness of the functions of the Committee and the Commission. The Movement is of the view that the action and the recommendation related to disarmament in the Secretary-General's proposal are two inseparable elements. In this context, the statement by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on 17 October 1997 (see annex II) continues to retain its full relevance and the Movement will continue to work actively in the process of updating, rationalizing and streamlining the work of the Committee and the Commission.

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UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

Letter dated 12 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the position papers of the Group of 77 and China on United Nations reform, dated 14 October 1997 and 29 October 1997 respectively, which contain the views and comments of the Member States that are members of the Group of 77 and China on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/512/950).

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would highly appreciate it if you would arrange for the present letter and its annexes to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 157.

(Signed) Daudi N. MWAKAWAGO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77

ANNEX I

Preliminary position of the Group of 77 and China on the Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950), 14 October 1997

Introductory remarks

Reform proposals and measures must be fully consistent with the Medium-Term Plan which constitutes the principal policy directive of the Organisation. The main objective of the reform measures and proposals should be to enable the United Nations to implement fully all mandated programmes and activities.

Any reform measures which do not require General Assembly approval should be implemented within the framework of the existing legislative mandates. Action on any measures and proposals in document A/51/950, unless decided otherwise, shall be implemented without prejudice to existing resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly or of other intergovernmental bodies.

Financial implications of any reform measure or proposal on which the General Assembly shall take action should be considered in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Proposals for any change in financial and staff rules and regulations required as a result of the implementation of the reform measures and proposals should be submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General for its consideration and approval.

Enhancing strategic direction from the General Assembly (p. 18):

Action on these proposals should take fully into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 51/241.

Restoring Charter-based division of functions (p. 19):

In view of the role of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat as stipulated in the Charter, the group cautions against attempting to create an artificial division of labour between the General Assembly and the SG/Secretariat. Differences between the SG/Secretariat and the General Assembly, e.g., on personnel, administrative and budgetary matters, planning, priorities, etc., must be solved through dialogue on a regular basis.

Items on new leadership and management structure, increasing administrative effectiveness and efficiency, streamlined structure for greater effectiveness are of general nature. Therefore, it is difficult to focus on them in terms of financial and administrative implications. More concrete and therefore relevant items are as follows:

Action 1 (p. 32):

Senior Management Group: The Group is of the opinion that the functioning of the Senior Management Group should not lead to another bureaucratic layer of decision-making in the Secretariat. Furthermore, the role of the Senior Management Group should avoid duplication of the functions which are carried out in the various departments and offices.

Action 2 (p. 32):

Strategic Planning Unit: More detailed elaboration and justification of this proposal, in particular in relation to the present arrangements within the Secretariat for long-term planning, are required before the Group could finalize its position.

Recommendation (p. 32):

Deputy Secretary-General: The Group of 77 and China is of the view that the creation of the post of the Deputy-Secretary-General is important and welcome measure for the UN Secretariat and increasing the effectiveness of the Office of the UN Secretary-General. However, it is important to know what Deputy-Secretary-General's functions will be. The Group suggests that development issues should be the main responsibility of the Deputy-Secretary-General. Furthermore, the overall functional powers of the Deputy-Secretary-General should be clarified especially his political role of deputizing when the Secretary-General is away.

In case of a political decision on the establishment of the post and pending a decision on the functions to be performed, the grade level, conditions of service, etc., the size of the office, and related resources should be considered in the Fifth Committee. This proposal should however be considered in the overall context of streamlining of the Secretariat and of the financial situation of the Organisation.

Recommendation (d) (p. 35):

Enhancing strategic direction from the General Assembly: Action on these proposals should take fully into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 51/241. In connection with paragraph 101, recommendation (d), the Group

would wish to point out that the agenda of the General Assembly is on the basis of items proposed and agreed to by Member States.

Action 3 (p. 39):

Gratis Personnel: The G-77 and China emphasises that General Assembly resolution 51/243 should be fully implemented in all its aspects.

Recommendations (p. 44):

Organization and methods of work of ECOSOC: The role of the Economic and Social Council is enshrined in Chapter X of the Charter of the United Nations and the Group of 77 abides by this role. The role of the Economic and Social Council has also been enhanced, in the context of the Charter, in General Assembly resolution 50/227 and in the Agenda for Development.

- On the recommendation that the Economic and Social Council considers holding its various segments at different, pre-established periods during the year, without affecting the total duration of the meetings held by the Council in any given year - this proposal is not acceptable to the Group of 77 and China, inter alia, because it has financial implications for the United Nations as well as for Member States. In view of the limited duration of the ECOSOC session, the Group sees merit in the suggestion to extend the duration of the operational activities segment, but this extension should not be done at the expense of shortening the duration of other segments. The issue of establishing a separate trust fund for operational activities segment does not arise since the attendance of officials from the LDC's will continue to be facilitated through the existing ECOSOC trust fund for this purpose.

- The issue of the Committee for Development Planning will be discussed under the reform of the Economic and Social Council's subsidiary bodies below.

Recommendations (p.45):

Reform of the subsidiary bodies:

- The Group of 77 and China stresses that the issue of reform of the four ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, namely the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development , the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Committee for Development Planning, should be discussed in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227. It should further be recalled that the Group of 77 and China stated its position regarding the reform of these four bodies at the 1997 ECOSOC

substantive session in Geneva. Summary of the Group's position on each of these bodies is as follows:

- Concerning the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development - there is a need to retain this body, basically because its approach to the question of energy is more holistic and comprehensive. To place CNRSEED under Commission on Sustainable Development will restrict its mandate and scope of its work especially in the area of new and renewable sources of energy, such as solar energy, hydro-electric power and energy from biomass etc. which are critical for developing countries.

- Regarding the Committee on Natural Resources - water resources issue will be discussed under the special dialogue mandated by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session aimed at building a consensus on the necessary actions in order to consider initiating a strategic approach for the implementation of all aspects of the sustainable use of freshwater. CNR could be retained with a focused mandate on mineral resources issues but the Group is flexible to consider a proposal for alternative arrangements to handle this issue within the United Nations system. (In this context, the CNR could be subsumed in the CNRSEED).

- Concerning the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Group of 77 and China reiterates the need to retain it on the grounds that its mandate broadly covers the sectoral and cross-sectoral dimensions of science and technology. Hence subsuming it in any one United Nations body will reduce the scope of its work in this area. The Group further supports efforts to strengthen CSTD in order to increase its efficiency and effectiveness including focusing its work more on transfer of technology and capacity building in developing countries. In this regard, the UNCTAD Secretariat should continue to provide substantive servicing of the CSTD. The idea of double reporting is not acceptable to the G-77 and China. CSTD should maintain its status as a functional Commission of ECOSOC.

- The Group does not accept the proposal to discontinue the Committee for Development Planning. Specialized Ad Hoc panels suggested in its place would not provide the necessary continuity and would not have an integrated vision that the CDP can provide. Such panels should be an additional subsidiary mechanism while CDP should be strengthened so as to continue its independent analysis of macro-economic issues.

- Concerning the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, the Group of 77 and China supports the proposal to maintain it as an expert body reporting through UNCTAD. It should, however, maintain its identity as a subsidiary body of ECOSOC.

- The Group of G-77 and China also supports the proposal to review the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts in ITM after the completion its present mandate under GA 50/227 process.

- The proposal to merge the functions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs into a Single Commission under arrangements that will fully preserve the treaty-based functions entrusted to the latter, cannot be supported by the G-77 and China due, inter alia, to lack of clarity on how the functions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be dealt with in the new body being proposed. The G-77 is of the view that the scope of issues covered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is quite broad and its merger with the Commission on Narcotics Drugs implies prioritizing the issue of Narcotics Drugs over other issues requiring crime prevention and criminal justice such as money laundering etc.

- In view of this, the G-77 feels that for now, the two bodies should maintain their distinctive mandates, subject to intergovernmental discussions on how the different mandates could be comprehensively addressed under a single body, in future. Meanwhile, it would be appreciated if the Secretariat would clarify further, this proposal to merge the two Commissions.

- Concerning the proposal that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights report to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission on Human Rights, the G-77 and China stresses that the present arrangement for reporting directly to ECOSOC should be maintained and that since the issues addressed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are of interest to all countries, the General Assembly should continue discussing them yearly, under a specific agenda item.

Recommendation (p. 46):

Regional Commissions and the reform process: The Group of 77 and China notes that the review of regional commissions is already taking place in accordance with the GA Resolution 50/227. Furthermore, further clarification is needed particularly on the aspects of the evaluation of "the most appropriate division of labour with regard to both standard-setting and technical cooperation activities and prospects for further rationalization and consolidation." The Group needs assurances that the proposed measures would not interfere with the mandates of existing regional organizations. Moreover, the role of the UN regional commissions in the technical assistance field should be strengthened.

Action 7 (p. 47):

Reform of the Secretariat:

(a) The Group of 77 and China generally supports the proposal to establish a substantive ECOSOC Secretariat subject to approval of budget estimates by the 5th Committee and further clarification by the Secretary-General, particularly on how the new Secretariat would specifically improve services and coordination with ECOSOC and its subsidiary machinery.

(b) The Group of 77 and China recognizes the need for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNCTAD to undertake a review of their activities in the macro-economic policy analysis area in order to strengthen their cooperation and enhance United Nations work in this area. The Group, however, cannot support the aspect of "rationalization" of the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNCTAD because this might weaken intellectual pluralism which is beneficial to Member States. Furthermore, the review should be aimed at reinforcing and better focus the activities of United Nations to ensure that the issues of development in both economic and social spheres are placed at the centre of the UN activities (the phrase ".. its leadership in meeting priority information needs of the world community," should be dropped in view of its ambiguity). The recommendations to be presented to the Secretary-General on this matter should be made available to Member States as soon as possible.

Action 8 (p.49):

This action is clearly linked to the proposals to merge the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, hence it should be discussed in the light of comments made by G-77 and China on this item above.

Action 9 (p.52):

Development Cooperation:

(a) The Group of 77 and China supports the proposal to create a United Nations Development Group (UNDG), involving UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, with provision for participation of other intergovernmental funding organizations such as WFP.

(b) The G-77 and China is of the view that the proposal that the Executive Committee of UNDG should develop counterpart arrangements at country level is unclear. In particular this would have implications for interference in the internal

affairs of Member States which have full responsibility to designate counterpart institutions at the country level. The Secretary-General may wish to clarify further this proposal.

Action 10 (p. 53):

(a) The Group of 77 and China sees merit in the proposal to have a single United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) with common objectives and time-frame in order to attain better integration and co-ordination of technical assistance efforts by various funding organizations. However, this innovation should be tried on a pilot basis to establish its efficiency, similar to the country strategy notes experiment under UNDP/UNFPA. Furthermore, programme funds managed by each of the programmes and funds should maintain their identity. Developing countries Governments must be closely consulted in the planning and elaboration of country programmes under these new institutional measures.

(b) Regarding the proposal to designate the Resident Coordinator as the representative of the Secretary-General and leader of UN country team, who would be accredited to the head of Government, the G-77 and China feels that circumstances are not ripe for the elevation of the diplomatic status of the Resident Coordinator to cover all aspects of the UN representation at country level. Accreditation of the Resident Coordinator should be in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations as concerns privileges accorded to UN staff members.

Recommendation (p. 54):

Governance of the funds and programmes: The proposal to achieve closer integration of the governance and oversight of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF is generally acceptable to the G-77 and China. More clarification is however needed on the proposed joint meetings of the existing Executive Boards and joint committees of these funding organizations.

Action 11 (p. 56):

The financing of development and technical cooperation:

(a) The G-77 and China supports the proposal to increase core resources for financing development and technical cooperation in developing countries. However, the notion of burden-sharing should be clarified to underline that it applies to traditional donors and not from so called "eligible/emerging donors" including some developing countries

(b) The G-77 and China supports the creation of the Office for Development Financing, notwithstanding the functions of the Deputy-Secretary-General.

Recommendation (p. 56):

The suggestion to consider innovative ways of raising new and additional resources is an important recommendation. However, G-77 is of the view that Member States should be closely consulted in the mobilization of particularly private sector resources and the Fifth Committee should be involved in the allocation and accountability of these resources. Further clarification from the Secretary-General would be appreciated.

Action 12 (p. 59):

Environment, habitat and sustainable development: The G-77 and China notes with concern that UNEP and Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya, have been undergoing a major crisis including financial pressures and organizational problems. In this regard, the Group welcomes the Secretary-General's proposal to strengthen UNEP and HABITAT. Apart from GA Resolution 2997 (XXVII) and 32/162, and taking into account the decisions and recommendations of the Governing Council of UNEP and the Commission on Human Settlements, the development of new measures for strengthening these two organizations should also be based on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996 and Rio +5, 1997. Furthermore, G-77 and China cannot accept the proposal to replace UNEP funding role with UNDP.

Recommendation (p. 59):

The Secretary-General is requested to provide further clarification on this proposal to discontinue the High-Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, particularly how the functions of this body will be absorbed in the CSD structure. G-77 further suggests that the involvement of civil society actors in the new arrangements for consultations as indicated in para 178, should be transparently discussed at CSD.

Action 13 (p.62):

(a) The G-77 and China generally supports the establishment of an Office of the Emergency Relief Co-ordinator, headed by an Under-Secretary-General.

(b) The G-77 and China notes the proposal to discontinue the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in its present form with comments made in (c) below.

(c) The G-77 and China needs further clarification from the Secretary-General as to how the functions of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs will be redistributed within the UN System, to ensure continued efficient delivery of particularly humanitarian assistance to developing countries.

(d) The G-77 and China supports the proposal to further strengthen the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), Chaired by Emergency Relief Co-ordinator.

(e) The G-77 and China supports the proposal that the IASC be asked to identify measures to harmonize processes and further enhance the consolidated appeal process. However, the Group needs further clarification on the notion of "prioritization" of assistance to be given, especially on the criteria to be applied. Furthermore, it should be clarified that resources earmarked for activities of the various members of IASC, i.e., UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, ICRC, etc., are not diverted to relief work, it being understood that resources for Emergency Relief are mobilized separately through appeals and are thus additional to the resources provided financing for the activities of these agencies, in accordance with their existing mandates.

(f) The G-77 and China notes that the new Office of the Emergency Relief Co-ordinator will not have country offices. Hence the proposal to designate a lead agency to co-ordinate complex emergencies. The G-77 requests clarification, especially on the criteria to be applied to designate the lead agency at country level. Moreover, why are the functions limited to the co-ordination of complex emergencies and not all types of emergencies?

Recommendation (p.63):

The G-77 and China notes the proposal to designate the Emergency Relief Co-ordinator as the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, and transfer the Emergency Relief Coordinator's responsibilities related to the coordination of natural disaster mitigation activities to UNDP. In this regard it should be affirmed that the resources for disaster mitigation activities will be separate from and additional to UNDP's resources for development activities.

The G-77 and China can support the proposal to establish a humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council.

Recommendations (p. 71):

Financing the Organisation (Revolving Credit Fund): The Secretary-General's proposal for establishing a Revolving Credit Fund, initially capitalized at a level of $1 billion through voluntary contributions or other means of financing that Member States may wish to suggest, needs to be examined taking into account the following points:

a) The Charter determines that the expenses of the Organisation shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly. Therefore, the Secretary-General has acknowledged that the only way to finance the Organisation is through assessed contribution, and it is imperative that all Member States pay their contributions in full on time and without imposing conditionalities. Thus, such a proposal cannot be a substitute for financial obligations as enshrined in the Charter and for resolving the financial situation of the Organisation which is due to the nonpayment of assessed contributions by Member States and especially by the major contributor.

b) The Secretary-General should submit detailed proposals to the General Assembly on the proposed establishment of the fund including its financing, its management and operation, purpose and related rules taking into account the experience of similar past proposals of the Secretary-General in the context of the financial situation of the Organisation.

The retention of unspent budget balances: In the opinion of the Group, unspent balances should be oriented to development activities. Accordingly, this subject should be considered in conjunction with the consideration by the General Assembly of the development account and with the changes to the financial regulations that such retention might entail.

Strengthening the staff of the United Nations (pp. 72-75):

This item covers issues like training and redeployment of staff, preparing a code of conduct and the role of the ICSC in determining the service conditions of the staff of the Organisation.

a) Training and redeployment: Secretary General proposes to establish a one time $15 million from appropriated resources to assist, train and redeploy staff affected by the reform proposal. This is a welcome initiative. However, there is need to clarify the source of the 15 million dollars. In the biennium 1998-1999 there are resources earmarked for staff training. Will the 15 million be in addition to amounts already requested? If so there will be more than 30 million devoted to staff training. At any

rate the Secretary-General is requested to justify this amount in a programme budget presentation to the GA in accordance with current procedure.

b) Code of conduct: The Secretary-General is requested to expedite submission of his proposals on the code of conduct to the General Assembly for its consideration.

c) ICSC: The General Assembly should consider, if necessary, the proposal of reviewing the ICSC.

Action 18 (p. 74):

The implementation of these measures must take fully into account the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. However, there is need to clarify the content and scope of elements contained in Action 18.

Action 20 (p. 75):

Senior appointments: Elaboration is required on Action 20.

Actions 21 and 22 (p. 76):

Development Account: Reallocation of "dividend" to economic and social activities is a laudable suggestion. The Secretary-General's aim to deliver "dividend for development" merits favourable consideration. In this context, the following points should be taken into account:

a) Reduction in administrative costs should not affect the full implementation of mandated programmes and activities.

b) The General Assembly should be apprised of the means to achieve overhead administrative reductions as well as the areas where savings are being achieved for its consideration and appropriate action. To this end, the Secretary-General is invited to present a detailed report for consideration and appropriate action by the General Assembly, by which, among other things, he should provide a sound and technical justification of his conclusion that the regular budget of the organisation comprise 38 per cent non-programme costs and how he intends to reduce it to 25 per cent. Therefore, **Actions 21 and 22** should not be implemented by the Secretary-General until the General Assembly has considered and acted on the above report.

c) Means and ideas to ensure sustainability of this initiative, which is being proposed to be effected by the year 2002, needs further exploration

d) In this context, administrative cost reductions should not be used as a pretext for an eventual reduction in the budget of the Organisation.

Action 25 (p. 78):

Action 25 should be implemented in the context of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on procurement and human resource management.

Recommendation (p. 78):

Results-based budgeting: The details of this proposal are yet to be elaborated. The Group notes that this proposal would lead to a radical departure from current programme planning and budgetary practices and procedures which have been repeatedly reaffirmed by the General Assembly. Therefore, no action should be taken by the Secretariat to implement result-based budgeting until the Secretary-General has submitted a detailed report to the General Assembly on the matter for consideration and action. Issues related to the pilot projects referred to in paragraph 241 will be discussed further in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 for its consideration and action.

Action 26 (p. 79):

Common Services: The Secretary-General is requested to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis on implementation of Action 26 for information or appropriate action. The establishment of Common Services must be preceded by a thorough cost-benefit analysis and consultation with and agreement of all secretariat parties, including funds and programmes concerned.

Action 27 (p. 80):

(a) The G-77 and China generally supports the proposal to enhance the dissemination of information electronically - through web site and home page, Internet, etc. However, since many developing countries do not have adequate telecommunications infrastructure, the UN should consider launching a programme of assistance to these countries in this area.

(b) The proposal to replace the United Nations main document system with electronic information systems that facilitate production, tracking, management and distribution of documents electronically should be approached cautiously. In particular, the developing countries which don't have infrastructure to enable them use the modern system are going to be completely marginalized. It must be ensured that the Untied Nations document system continues to provide UN documents to the

developing countries which don't have facilities for electronic communication system in place.

(c) Comments made in (b) apply also to this proposal to enhance Internet to facilitate communication within the UN system. In particular, communication facilities in the UN offices located in developing countries, especially Africa, should be modernized at the same standard as those in developed countries.

(d) The proposal to finalize an information technology strategy for New York Headquarters is supported especially if networking between Headquarters and the field offices, particularly in the developing countries would be further enhanced.

Communications and public information (pp.82-85):

The G-77 and China notes that this section does not have recommendations or proposals for action, notwithstanding the fact that the Task Force on information has submitted its report to the Secretary-General.

It is the view of the Group that some of the recommendations of the Task Force could be considered for implementation in the context of the Secretary-General's reform proposals after consultation with member states.

G-77 and China further underlines that the reform envisaged in the Department of Public Information are inadequate. In particular, the Group expects clear proposals with a vision on how communication and information services to the UN membership will be improved. The strategy proposed in the Secretary-General's paper on reforms stress only the cosmetic aspects of UN information system such as portraying a good image of the United Nations to its member states. The G-77 thinks that stress should be laid on strengthening the UN information offices at country and regional levels. In this context, the Group does not support any measures aimed at the closure of UN information offices in some countries

Since there is no clarity on the reform measures being undertaken and the long term vision on the UN information activities, the Group requests for more information on this matter including clear proposals for action and recommendations for consideration by member states.

The Future:

Even though item 157 is allocated to the plenary, future reports on the item should be submitted for consideration by the substantive Committees, e.g., all reports dealing with administrative and budgetary matters should be submitted to the Fifth Committee.

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ANNEX II

Preliminary position of the Group of 77 and China on actions contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950), 29 October 1997

Introductory remarks

In the context of the ongoing open-ended consultations of the General Assembly Plenary on Agenda Item 157: United Nations Reform: Measures and Proposals, on 14 October 1997, the Group of 77 and China tabled its preliminary position on the Report of the Secretary General: Renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform (A/51/950).

In its submission, the Group emphasized the following general principles:

Any reform measures which do not require General Assembly approval should be implemented within the framework of the existing legislative mandates. Action on any measures and proposals in document A/51/950, unless decided otherwise, shall be implemented without prejudice to existing resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly or of other intergovernmental bodies.

Financial implications of any reform measure or proposal on which the General Assembly shall take action should be considered in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Proposals for any change in financial and staff rules and regulations required as a result of the implementation of the reform measures and proposals should be submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary General for its consideration and approval.

Reform proposals and measures must be fully consistent with the Medium-Term Plan which constitutes the principal policy directive of the Organization. The main objective of the reform measures and proposals should be to enable the United Nations to implement fully all mandated programmes and activities.

Following the Secretariat's response to comments and queries issued on 21 October 1997, the Group of 77 and China has prepared its preliminary position on a number of actions as listed below. This preliminary position should be read in conjunction with the Group's earlier position paper issued on 14 October 1997.

Action 1

The SMG can be in principle a good idea. While acting in an advisory capacity, the SMG can play a very important policy role. Since a handful of countries over the years have occupied some key posts, and thus will land by definition in SMG, it is necessary that the Secretary General provides further assurance to the Group of 77 that there will be non-permanence of representation and that the membership of that group would be drawn on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical representation. The Group of 77 would also like assurances that SMG's actions will not impinge on the decision-making role of member states as stipulated in the Charter.

Furthermore, the Group reiterates its earlier position that the SMG should not lead to another bureaucratic layer of decision-making in the Secretariat and its role should avoid duplication of the functions which are carried out in the various departments and offices of the United Nations system

Action 2

The Group of 77 notes the proposal of the Secretary General to create a SPU. In view of the importance of its role, the Group of 77 is of the view that the unit should be sufficiently big to allow for equitable geographical representation of member states. Furthermore, the Group will want to be assured that the people in SPU would be of the highest technical competence drawn from the widest spectrum of views reflecting the diverse membership of the Organization. Further clarification on this proposal is thus required.

Action 3

The Group of 77 and China generally concurs with the action relating to the phasing out of gratis personnel. In this context, the Group reiterates that General Assembly resolution 51/243 should be fully implemented in all its aspects, including the submission of all the relevant reports as requested in that resolution.

Action 7

(a) The Group of 77 and China generally supports the proposal to establish a substantive ECOSOC Secretariat. However, the normal procedure of examining the financial implications by the Fifth Committee should be followed before its implementation.

(b) While the Group sees merit in the review of DESA and UNCTAD with a view to reinforcing complementarities, however the distinctive contribution of these two bodies, as well as their legislative mandates should be preserved.

Action 8

Following the Secretary General's clarification in the Secretariat's informal paper entitled, *"Secretariat Responses to Comments and Queries"*, of October 21, 1997, the Group of 77 can support the suggestion that, *"The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will continue to operate as separate bodies, pending a decision of member states on the Secretary General's proposals recommending the merger of the two Commissions"*.

Action 9

(a) The Group of 77 and China reiterates its support for the proposal to create- UNDG with provision for the participation of other relevant intergovernmental funding organizations.

(b) The Group reiterates its position that arrangements for counterpart mechanisms at country level should be the responsibility of host countries. The clarification given by the Secretariat on this matter is not clear.

Action 10

(a) The Group of 77 and China reiterates its support for UNDAF.

(b) While the Group of 77 and China recognizes the need for coordination of the United Nations activities at the country level under a Resident Coordinator, the Group reiterates its position that circumstances are not ripe for the elevation of the diplomatic status of the Resident Coordinator. This may require further consultations.

Action 11

(a) The Group of 77 and China is waiting for the Secretary General's proposals on the mobilization of funding for core resources for financing development and technical cooperation in developing countries. However, the Group reiterates its earlier position that the burden-sharing arrangements should apply only to traditional donors.

(b) The Group of 77 and China maintains its support for the creation of the Office for Development Financing and that this should not be linked to the issue of the establishment of the Office of the DSG.

Action 12

The Group of 77 and China generally supports the Secretary General's proposal to strengthen UNEP and HABITAT. The Group, however, reiterates its position that the development of new measures for strengthening these two organizations should be broadened to include the recommendations of HABITAT II and Rio +5, 1997. Furthermore, the clarification made in the Secretariat paper of 20 October 1997 is unclear on the issue of UNEP's

funding role. In this regard, the Group reiterates its position that the Secretary General should provide clarification reaffirming UNEP's funding role.

Action 13

The Group of 77 and China reiterates its request for further clarification from the Secretary General as to how the functions of the DHA will be redistributed within the UN system.

Furthermore, the Group notes that in view of the fact that UNDP will assume some of the operational activities of the DHA, this should not affect the development activities being undertaken by UNDP. In particular, it should be ensured that the funding for DHA activities is additional to those given for UNDP activities.

Moreover, the Secretary General should clarify his proposal on the designation of a lead agency at the country level, particularly the criteria to be applied.

The comments made by the Group of 77 on this Action should be read in tandem with the position of NAM on issues relating to human rights, peacekeeping operations and Security Council in the context of humanitarian assistance.

Action 18

The Group of 77 reiterates its position that the implementation of these measures must take fully into account the relevant resolutions and decision of the General Assembly, as well as rules and regulations of the Organization. Furthermore, the results of the Task Force should be made available to the Member States as soon as possible.

Action 19

The comments made on Action 18 also apply to this Action.

Action 20

In the implementation of this Action, the Secretary General should ensure that the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, as well as consultations with member states on these appointments are fully adhered to.

Action 21

The Group of 77 and China supports, in principle, the idea of development dividend. However, the Secretary General should provide the CRP promised in his circular of 21 October 1997 to clarify on important issues relating to the mobilization of resources and their allocation for this purpose. The Group stresses that the relevant Committees of the General Assembly should be involved in the discussions on this issue. Furthermore, it should be made clear that the

Development Dividend Fund should be sizeable and it will be used to finance development activities in the developing countries. The reference of the use of this fund for economic and social issues as reflected in the report is unclear. The issue of the total amount to be mobilized for this fund should also be discussed with a view to increasing the resources needed for this purpose. Furthermore, the Group of 77 would like to be assured that the resources envisaged to be raised within the specific context of this proposal would be linked to the mobilization of financial resources for long-term development objectives. Further clarification is thus necessary.

Actions 25 and 26

The Group can support these actions on the basis of the comments made in the paper containing the Preliminary Position of the Group of 77 and China on reform of October 14, 1997.

Action 27

The Group of 77 and China supports this Action with comments made in the paper containing the Group's Preliminary Position on reform dated October 14, 1997.

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UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

Letter dated 14 November 1997 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that at the 49th plenary meeting of the fifty-second session, held on 12 November 1997, the General Assembly adopted resolution 52/12 entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform".

I should like to draw your attention in particular to paragraph 2 of the resolution, which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"2. Calls upon the Secretary-General, while implementing the actions described in his report [A/51/950], to take full account of the views and comments expressed by Member States and groups of Member States, including as transmitted in their communications".

In accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 52/12, I have the honour to transmit to you the statements of the delegations of Algeria, Australia, China, Colombia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) (A/52/662), Cuba, Ecuador, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union) (A/52/661), Monaco, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) (A/52/663), the United States of America and Ukraine made during the open-ended informal consultations of the plenary on agenda item 157 (United Nations reform: measures and proposals).

I should like to inform you that the text of the present letter will be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 157.

(Signed) Hennadiy Udovenko

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